GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:218
ANSWERED ON:30.11.2015
Accident in GAIL Pipeline
Sathyabama Smt. V.

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) proposes to deploy Drone to guard its pipelines and if so, the details thereof;
(b) whether the said move follows one of the worst accidents involving the GAIL last year in its pipeline carrying natural gas exploded in Andhra Pradesh killed large number of persons; and
(c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN)
(a) to (c): GAIL (India) Limited is operating a large network of Cross country and regional pipelines for Natural Gas and LPG. The pipelines are buried underground by obtaining ROU (Right Of User). Surveillance of vast network of pipelines across the country is required to ensure the safety & reliability of pipelines and guard against sabotage, exposure, soil erosion, excavation and construction works etc. Presently, it is being achieved through regular periodic foot patrolling and air surveillance by hiring Helicopter Services on monthly basis. GAIL intends to take up aerial surveillance of inaccessible terrains through UAV (Unmanned Aerial Vehicle) on Pilot basis after obtaining requisite permissions and clearances.
The surveillance measures are being taken not due to the accident in GAIL's pipeline but
were in place even before that. GAIL and ONGC have taken steps separately to address the causes for accident in the pipeline in Andhra Pradesh last year and five Gas Dehydration Units (GDUs) have been installed.
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